

MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

TAB ~~1~~ MISSING 20

State Dept., DIA reviews completed

CONFIDENTIAL

19 JUN 1948

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TOP SECRET

EUROPE

1. FRANCE: Strikes thought Communist test--US Ambassador Caffery has been told by Premier Schuman that the French Government believes the recent strikes at Clermont Ferrand to be a "try-out" by the Communists to see whether the Government would react vigorously. Caffery comments that the Government did react vigorously and Schuman expects "no particularly disagreeable aftermath."

Communists not to undertake trial of force--The US Military Attache has learned from a reliable source that the French Communist Party Politburo has decided that the Party should not at this time undertake a trial of force against the Government. The Politburo is reported therefore to have given General Confederation of Labor (CGT) leaders at Clermont Ferrand full latitude in present negotiations, but with the understanding that they will obtain a CGT prestige victory. The Politburo is also reported to have decided that movements in support of wage demands should be accelerated and should be accompanied by strikes of attrition. (The MA's informant reported that the Communist leaders decided on a one-hour general strike on 19 June as a test of the willingness of the entire working class to support CGT action.)

Government may put on end to sit-down strikes--US Embassy Paris has been reliably informed that French Interior Minister Moch is determined to put an end to the practice of sit-down strikes. The Embassy's informant, a high official of the Ministry of Interior, observed that such action would constitute a fundamental alteration of French policy and might prove extremely embarrassing to non-Communist labor leaders.

(CIA Comment: The Government will probably defer action on Moch's decision until the attitude of the Communists becomes clarified. Government action at present, before discussion of revision of the present wage scale, would probably cause sympathetic strikes by non-Communist labor.)

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2. AUSTRIA: Government wants continued firmness toward USSR.--
US Minister Erhardt reports from Vienna that the UK representatives there are expressing apprehension lest the boldness of the Austrian Government in its relations with the USSR might lead the latter to take retaliatory measures and abandon cooperation with the other occupying powers. Austrian Foreign Minister Gruber is distressed by this British attitude and holds that the Austrian Government and the representatives of the western powers in Austria must show a firm front to the USSR and leave no possibility of Soviet illusions as to the resistance that would be offered to aggressive Soviet action. Erhardt considers this Austrian view more realistic than that of the British and believes that the Austrian Ministers, who are showing considerable courage in a very exposed situation, deserve better than vacillating support in their attitude toward the USSR in Austria.

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